

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/666,561

Examiner

Justin I. King

Applicant(s)

HIRATA ET AL.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 5/19/06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,2,5,7,9,11 and 19-21.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

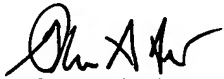
Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
- ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
- ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
- ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
- ☐ Other _____


Glenn A. Auve
Primary Patent Examiner
Technology Center 2100

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 1-2, 5, 7, 9, 11, and 19-21 are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Referring to claim 1: The prior art on record does not explicitly disclose the amended control function. The prior art discloses the self-identification process. During this process, DSS IRD 100 sends commands to all the nodes and inquires as to their device types. According to the responses from the nodes, DSS IRD 100 associates unique device names to the nodes automatically. The prior art only uses the ID and port number to create the topology map. The prior art does not explicitly disclose the function as claimed. The claimed control function enables the information processing apparatus to utilize the information; the Specification, figure 2 and pages 15-17, discloses that the alleged invention's control functions enables the information processing apparatus by determining the whether the A/V command can be handled, then determining whether the node conforms with the protocol, then determining whether the node equips with the function utilize the audio information.

Referring to claims 2, 5, 7, and 19: Claims are allowable because they incorporate parent claim's limitations.

Referring to claim 9: The prior art on record does not explicitly disclose the amended control function. The prior art discloses the self-identification process. During this process, DSS IRD 100 sends commands to all the nodes and inquires as to their device types. According to the responses from the nodes, DSS IRD 100 associates unique device names to the nodes

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automatically. The prior art only uses the ID and port number to create the topology map. The prior art does not explicitly disclose the function as claimed. The claimed control function enables the information processing apparatus to utilize the information; the Specification, figure 2 and pages 15-17, discloses that the alleged invention's control functions enables the information processing apparatus by determining the whether the A/V command can be handled, then determining whether the node conforms with the protocol, then determining whether the node equips with the function utilize the audio information.

Referring to claim 20: Claim is allowable because it incorporates parent claim's limitations.

Referring to claim 11: The prior art on record does not explicitly disclose the amended control function. The prior art discloses the self-identification process. During this process, DSS IRD 100 sends commands to all the nodes and inquires as to their device types. According to the responses from the nodes, DSS IRD 100 associates unique device names to the nodes automatically. The prior art only uses the ID and port number to create the topology map. The prior art does not explicitly disclose the function as claimed. The claimed control function enables the information processing apparatus to utilize the information; the Specification, figure 2 and pages 15-17, discloses that the alleged invention's control functions enables the information processing apparatus by determining the whether the A/V command can be handled, then determining whether the node conforms with the protocol, then determining whether the node equips with the function utilize the audio information.

Referring to claim 21: Claim is allowable because it incorporates parent claim's limitations.

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3. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

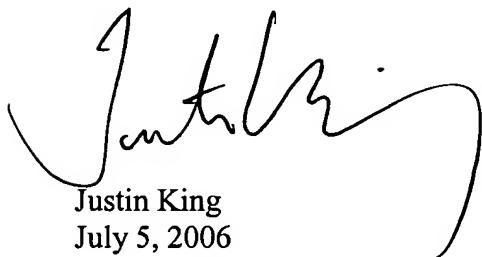
4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Justin I. King whose telephone number is 571-272-3628. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mark Rinehart can be reached on 571-272-3632 or on the central telephone number, (571) 272-2100. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Lastly, paper copies of cited U.S. patents and U.S. patent application publications will cease to be mailed to applicants with Office actions as of June 2004. Paper copies of foreign patents and non-patent literature will continue to be included with office actions. These cited

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U.S. patents and patent application publications are available for download via the Office's PAIR. As an alternate source, all U.S. patents and patent application publications are available on the USPTO web site (www.uspto.gov), from the Office of Public Records and from commercial sources. Applicants are referred to the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at <http://www.uspto.gov/ebc/index.html> or 1-866-217-9197 for information on this policy. Requests to restart a period for response due to a missing U.S. patent or patent application publications will not be granted.



Justin King
July 5, 2006



Glenn A. Auve
Primary Patent Examiner
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